



FGIF INBOX - NEWS UPDATES 2021-22

updated on 19/07/21.

NEW Monday 19th July – **New Weblog Update:** *Simple Pieman* – Links to the excellent **Pie & Mushy Peas** weblog (edited by super Spurs' fan *Steve Dobson*) have now been added to the *FGIF* Home Page. Readers can now access details from Steve's latest visits at the touch of a button. So far, the weblog has covered games from the following clubs: **Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC** (Spartan South Midlands League) **Peckham Town FC** (Kent County League) **Littlehampton Town FC** (Southern Combination League) **Atherstone Town FC** (Midland Football League). We hope that you enjoy reading more club and ground news and reviews over the coming season.

NEW Monday 19th July – **Latest Updates to *FGIF* this week:** *WebEd* –

New Photo Albums x 4 - *Ian Brown* - **Elton Vale FC** (Manchester League) and **Littletown FC** (Yorkshire Amateur League); *Steve Hardy* - **Berks County FC** (Combined Counties League) and *Gary Spooner* - **Y Felinheli FC** (Welsh Alliance). All added to the *FGIF* Album Gallery.

Gary writes: 'Glorious sunshine and glorious scenery in Wales yesterday for a Welsh Amateur Trophy 1st Round game between **Y Felinheli** and Llanystumdwy. Despite Doctor Doom predicting hordes of 'stay at home' holiday makers gridlocking the A55 and preventing arrival before kick-off we had no problems and arrived in good time for a pre match coffee overlooking boats bobbing on the Menai Straits. From there it was a two-minute drive to Cae Seilo, home of Y Felinheli and the customary friendly welcome. No paper programmes but an online edition and badges were available from the tearbar. The ground is very picturesque being surrounded by trees and has a marked slope down to the entrance. There is a seated covered stand, but this was out of bounds to spectators yesterday. It was being used as the away team changing room as due to FAW regulations clubs cannot currently use changing rooms. The game ended 4-0 to Y Felinheli. They were simply too good for Llanystumdwy who play 2 divisions lower. Decent entertainment in the heat. On the way home we stopped at Penmaenmawr to eat our sandwiches overlooking the sea. Penmaenmawr Phoenix FC is definitely earmarked for a visit later in the season. Excellent day out!'

New TT Reports x 3 - (No.3) *Steve Hardy* - **Berks County FC** (Combined Counties League); (No.2) *Mark Jones* - **Prestatyn Sports FC** (Welsh Alliance) and (1) *Brian Buck* - **Duxford United FC** (Cambs County League). All added to the *FGIF* Reports & Reviews page for 2021-22.

NEW Tuesday 13th July – Important Website Update: *WebEd* - Due to technical problems involving the operating system on my personal laptop, I have been unable to provide updates for several weeks. Since recovering all the important data these issues have been resolved and I am pleased to say that all the outstanding news, photos and TT reports sent in by our dedicated team of contributors (dating back to 24/05/21) have now been added to *FGIF*.

NEW Tuesday 13th July – Latest Updates to *FGIF* this week: *WebEd* -

New Photo Albums x 7 - **Furness Vale FC; Bamford FC; Fairfield FC and Ellesmere Port FC** (all *Ian Brown*); **Newbury FC** (*Craig Dabbs*); **Prestatyn Sports FC** (*Mark Jones*) and **Cleethorpes Town FC** (*Gary Spooner*).

Gary writes: 'It really has been far too long!! At last, I've managed to take some pics at a footie game.

Yesterday saw me with camera in hand at the Myenergi Stadium for a Lincolnshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round game between holders **Cleethorpes Town** and Stamford. I do love a trip to the seaside. It was a decent game as well which Cleethorpes looked to have won when they scored an 82nd minute penalty. However, Stamford snatched victory from the jaws of defeat when they equalised in the 92nd minute and won the penalty shootout 5-3. Wonder if that will be only penalty shoot-out I watch this weekend? It was good to be back watching footie and taking pics and the 12.30 kick off meant I was back home in good time for my favourite dinner'.

New TT Reports x 20 - **Brereton Social FC** and **Watlington Sports & Social FC** (both *Jon T Green*); **Albury FC; Allenburys Sports FC; Yaxham FC; Cambridge University Cuppers Cup Final; Coventrians FC; Shelford & Stapleford Strikers FC; Marlow United FC; Notley FC and Sheering FC** (all *Brian Buck*); **Arthur Dunn Cup Final; Maidenhead Town FC; York City FC (new LNER Stadium); Rochester United FC and Reading YMCA FC** (all *Keith Aslan*); **Epping FC; Newbury FC; Henley Town FC and Reading YMCA** (all *Craig Dabbs*).

NEW Thursday 8th July – Latest News - Prestatyn Sports FC: *Mark Jones* – 'The North Wales resort town of Prestatyn hasn't seen a new football ground (or any kind of major sports facility for that matter) since 1969 when Prestatyn Town moved a couple of hundred yards from their old Bastion Road ground, tucked away behind a large and imposing nursing home, to their present site on Bastion Gardens.

But 2020 saw Prestatyn Sports - relative newcomers to the scene having only been formed in 2010 – move into their long-awaited new facility on The Meadows, a project that has been some seven years in the making and seen a lot of blood, sweat and tears shed along the way.

Sports had previously played their games in nearby Gronant village but the public pitch and infrastructure left much to be desired with matters coming to a head in October 2017 when Caersws refused to play a Welsh Cup tie there claiming the facilities were 'inadequate and dangerous' forcing Sports to withdraw from the competition.

The club then launched a major series of improvements which saw them rail off the pitch, radically overhaul the dressing rooms and generally tidy the area up.

A couple of years later, the political restructuring of Welsh football dealt them another blow when Gronant, which is geographically in Flintshire, was deemed to fall under the jurisdiction of the North-East Wales FA meaning Sports would have to quit the North Wales Coast FA and join one of NEWFA's leagues which would have trebled their travelling distances and also their costs.

Thankfully, sense was seen and Sports were allowed to remain in the Coastal set up and the decision spurred them on to find a new home in Denbighshire where they had already identified the Meadows as a preferred option.

After years of wrangling with planners, local residents, grant funding authorities and the like, permission to go ahead and develop the site was given in 2019 and 12 months later the Meadows was ready to host games (until the pandemic stuck its oar in and scuppered everything for everybody),

The ground is very rural and very verdant being surrounded by open land and lying in the shadow of the hills that provide a backdrop to the town.

Fully railed off with dugouts, the main structure at the ground is a large vandal-proof cabin housing impressive dressing rooms and showers for players and officials, an equipment store and Davey's Tea Bar which provides matchday refreshments.

Everything is painted dark green which blends in with the surroundings nicely and contrast is provided by signage in Sports' red and white colours.

There is no hard standing or cover at the moment (though both are planned for the future) so this is one of those grounds best visited in early or late season when the Welsh weather is better.

Reaching The Meadows is a bit of a trek from the town's railway station (a good 45-minute walk at least presuming you know where you are heading) so the best option for non-motorists is to pick up a bus for Meliden from the central bus station and alight near the Miners Arms pub from where The Meadows can be reached in five minutes via Roundwood Avenue. A taxi from Prestatyn station to the ground will set you back around £5 or so.

Both the Miners Arms and the nearby Red Lion serve excellent pub grub and have a choice of real ales while Meliden village itself has a very decent Chinese chippy and a large Spar

convenience store – these are the nearest facilities to the ground so fill up or stock up before the match is my advice!

If you are driving to The Meadows, please be aware that parking is very limited and Roundwood Avenue doesn't offer much in the way of places to pull up, being quite rural with no pavements for much of its length.

I am happy to offer help with any advice or local information to hoppers wanting to visit Sports so feel free to drop me a text or call me on 07753 966805. Diolch yn fawr iawn pawb! Mwynhau!'.

NEW Thursday 8th July - Updated Football Programme Database: Steve Hardy.

The excellent **UK Non-League Football Club Programme Database** has now been fully updated to include all known issuers up to the end of the curtailed 2020-21 season. Details cover all club entries in English; Scottish; Welsh; Northern Irish; Ladies; Schools and Sunday football. As always, we are indebted to Steve Hardy for his enthusiasm and pain-staking research in compiling the database. Following the link from the Programmes menu tab for more...

COMING SOON Check out Simple Pieman's travels from the excellent **Pie and Mushy Peas** weblog (*Steve Dobson*) and some of the early TT reports from the new season will follow in due course...

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH All the above updates mostly relate to the last (curtailed) 2020-21 season. I kindly ask all contributors to check that the info posted is both complete and correct. If there are any outstanding photos or reviews that have been omitted or still need posting, get in touch. I will begin to add further updates, including those for the **NEW SEASON (2021-22)**, in the coming days. Please get in touch – use the *Contact Page* to find out more.

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